

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

THE SPECIFICATION

The title has been amended to more clearly indicate the nature of the invention to which the claims are directed, as required by the Examiner. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

THE CLAIMS

Claims 1 and 3 have been amended to recite the features of the present invention whereby a focusing board is arranged at a position where the incident light divided by the beam splitter forms an image to enable viewing of a focusing state by observing the image, and whereby the eyepiece lens is configured to enable a user to observe the image which is divided by the beam splitter and formed on the focusing board with a viewfinder. See, for example, the specification at page 32, lines 2-8 and Figs. 2-5.

In addition, claims 1 and 3 have been amended to clarify that the relay lens is provided between the focusing board and the eyepiece lens at a position where a diameter of light flux is narrowest in an optical path from the beam splitter to the eyepiece lens, and to clarify that the shutter is provided

approximately at the position where the diameter of light flux is narrowest in the optical path from the beam splitter to the eyepiece lens. See, for example, the specification at page 34, line 27 to page 35, line 24 and Figs. 2-5.

Yet still further, claim 5 has been amended to make some minor grammatical improvements.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to the claims be approved and entered.

THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of the combination of USP 4,853,731 ("Tsujimura et al") and USP 4,992,809 ("Nozaki et al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in clarified amended independent claims 1 and 3, the relay lens is provided between the focusing board and the eyepiece lens at a position where a diameter of light flux is narrowest in an optical path from the beam splitter to the eyepiece lens (i.e., at substantially a medium position of the total optical path length between the focusing board and the eyepiece lens), and the shutter is provided

approximately at the position where the diameter of light flux is narrowest in the optical path from the beam splitter to the eyepiece lens.

As recognized by the Examiner, Tsujimura et al discloses a camera having an eyepiece shutter 6i and a relay lens system 6h. More specifically, as shown in Fig. 1 of Tsujimura et al, the relay lens system 6h has two lens groups arranged at two positions - namely, a first relay lens arranged near the viewfinder mirror 6g and a second relay lens group arranged near the second focal plane 6d in the viewfinder cylinder 6b. Significantly, though, in Tsujimura et al, the position where the diameter of the light flux is narrowest is the position where the first relay lens 6h arranged near the viewfinder mirror 6g is provided. And in Tsujimura et al, the eyepiece shutter 6i is not provided in the vicinity of the first relay lens 6h. Instead, as is clear from Fig. 1 thereof, in Tsujimura et al the eyepiece shutter 6i is provided in the vicinity of the second relay lens 6h.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Tsujimura et al clearly does not disclose, teach or suggest the feature of the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 3 whereby the shutter is provided approximately at the position where the diameter of light flux is narrowest in the optical path from the beam splitter to the eyepiece lens.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1 and 3, as well as claims 2, 4, and 5 respectively depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguish over Tsujimura et al and Nozaki et al, taken singly or in combination, under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Douglas Holtz/

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